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ABSTRACT

This document includes papers on libraries serving the general public which were presented at the 1986 International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) conference. The first paper, "Annual Reports of Sections and Round Tables of the Division of Libraries Serving the General Public" includes the following annual reports for fiscal year 1985-86: Section of Libraries for the Blind; Section for Libraries Serving Disadvantaged Persons; Section on Library Services to Multicultural Populations; Section of Public Libraries; School Libraries Section; and the Round Table of National Centres for Library Services (ROTNAC). Other papers in this document include: (1) "Past, Present, and Future of the School Library Section of IFLA" (Anne M. Galler, Canada); (2) "Audiovisual Media and Libraries for People with Disabilities" (Catherine F. Pinion, United Kingdom); and (3) "Computerizing Library Services for the Handicapped--Some Japanese Issues" (Jun Ishikawa, Japan). (KM)

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IFLA

General Conference

Libraries Serving the General Public Division

Tokyo, Japan

August 1986

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IFLA

1986

IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE, TOKYO

Division: LIBRARIES SERVING THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Section:

154

GENPU-3-E

ANNUAL REPORTS OF SECTIONS AND ROUND TABLES OF THE DIVISION OF LIBRARIES SERVING THE GENERAL PUBLIC

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KEYWORD(S):

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Section of Libraries for the Blind

Annual Report, 1985-1986

Meetings

The Standing Committee met twice in Chicago during the General Conference, and in Paris on January 16th and 17th, 1986. Facilities were provided by the Association Valentin Hauy. The committee discussed present and future projects and planned the Expert Meeting and participation in the IFLA General Conference. Minutes of this meeting were mailed to Section members.

Information/Mailings

Three copies of the Newsletter have so far been distributed to members and enquirers, giving news of projects, conference and meeting plans, and new developments. These have included material formerly sent in the information mailings. All mailings are now being handled by member institutions, and so far the National Library for the Blind (U.K.); the American Foundation for the Blind, and the Jewish Foundation for the Blind (New York) have each distributed one mailing.

Quite separately, the Section's 'Blindpost' logo and revised guidelines were mailed to agencies for the blind world-wide, with a request that they bring it to the attention of their national postal authorities and campaign for its adoption. This distribution was carried out by the Danish State Library and Printing House for the Blind

Publications

Only one publication was issued during the year, although work on others is well advanced.

- International Directory of Libraries for the Blind, compiled by Clifford Law and Kathy Moignard, National Library of Australia, has been submitted to IFLA for publication.
- International Directory of Tactile Map Collections, edited by Frank Kurt Cylke and Judith Dixon, was published in 1985 by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Washington, D.C. (ISBN 0-8444-0506-X)

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Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Vol.3 is being compiled by Rainer Witte, Deutsche Blindenstudienanstalt, for submission to IFLA.

Projects

- Tactile Map Depository. Work on the compilation and analysis of information received was completed by staff of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, and the resulting International Directory of Tactile Map collections was published under the editorship of F.K. Cylke and Judith M. Dixon by NLS/BPH.
- Braille in Africa. Poor response to questionnaires has delayed this project, which continues in the hands of Rainer Witte, Deutsche Blindenstudienanstalt, Marburg, FRG.
- Availability of materials for the Blind. This IFLA - supported project has been completed, and reports feature in the programme of the 1986 General Conference. Arising from the work is the International Directory of Libraries for the Blind, by Clifford Law and Kathy Moignard, which is to be published in 1986. The survey was coordinated by Winnie Vitzansky, Danish State Library and Printing House for the Blind, and carried out by Edwige Mortyr, Norwegian Association of the Blind, and Clifford Law, National Library of Australia.
- International Postage Committee. The work of this committee was completed with the acceptance in Chicago of the revised Guidelines for the use of the 'Blindpost' logo, and the mailing of these and the logo to potential users throughout the world. It remains to deal with the related customs questions.
- Copyright. Following preliminary investigations by Elizabeth Twining, Royal National Institute for the Blind, it was found that no difficulties were currently evident in obtaining copyright permission for braille and recorded books for the visually handicapped. The project was therefore abandoned and reported as such to IFLA.

- Audio Technology working group (formerly Compact Audio Disc). Group members have taken part in discussions of both compact disc and other media as vehicles for talking books. There can never be a single format suitable for all applications, but investigations continue. The group are involved in a symposium at the Tokyo Expert Meeting, 1986.

Expert Meeting, Washington D.C.

The Section held its third Expert Meeting in Washington, from August 13th - 16th, 1985. 85 delegates from 21 nations attended. There were four papers by Section members from Canada, Kenya, and the U.S.A., three of which later served as bases for discussion and study sessions on the establishment of library service for the blind individuals in developing countries; continuing education of training in library service for the blind, and text preparation and editing of recorded material for use by blind readers. Dr. Kenneth Jernigan, President of the National Federation of the Blind, U.S.A. spoke to the meeting on library service from the non-sighted user's viewpoint - on outstanding contribution which stimulated much discussion.

There were brief reports on new developments in almost all countries represented - a new and popular feature. The Section was made welcome on tours of both Recording for the Blind, Princeton, NJ, and National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Library of Congress, Washington D.C.

The meeting was hosted by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress, and Frank Kurt Cylke, NLS/BPH and Peter Hanke, American Foundation for the Blind served as chairman of the local organizing committee, which was responsible for the very capable and smooth handling of all arrangements. The professional content of the meeting was planned by the Section's Chairman Winnie Vitzansky in co-operation with the Standing Committee.

General Conference, Chicago

In Chicago the Section had two open meetings. At the first Judith Dixon, U.S.A. gave a paper on how to determine patrons' interest, opinions, and needs, stimulating a debate among the participants on the necessity of investigations and how to carry them out. The second meeting had the theme: International lending of library material for the blind, and this was dealt with from 3 different viewpoints. Janice Shewchuck, Canada talked about the bibliographic control of library materials for the blind, emphasizing the Canadian experience; Elizabeth Twining, U.K. discussed the extent to which copyright is an obstacle to the free flow of information, and finally Allan Leach, U.K. read the paper of William C. Byrne, Australia, on the problems of postal and customs regulations and the Section's work on improving the present situation.

The Section had arranged a meeting in co-operation with the Round Table on Ethnic and Linguistic Minorities. At this meeting Sylvia Manoogian, U.S.A., discussed the role of the public library in serving the aging multi-ethnic population in the U.S.A., and James Herndon, U.S.A. had written a paper on the role of National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in covering the information needs of the blind and physically handicapped multi-ethnic population. This was read by A.D. Hagle, U.S.A. Also a meeting was arranged in co-operation with the Section for Libraries Serving Disadvantaged Persons on the theme of large print, and Tom Barnard, U.K., pointed out that without reduction of production prices large print will probably still be too scarce. The scarcity was illustrated by Bruce Massis, U.S.A. in his overview of international large print publishing, and finally Linda Jansen and Paulli Thomsen, Denmark, examined the importance of using the right typography and reported from a recent Danish investigation on the legibility of print for visually impaired.

International Federation
of Library Associations and Institutions
Fédération Internationale des
Associations de Bibliothécaires et des Bibliothèques
Internationaler Verband
der bibliothekarischen Vereine und Institutionen
Международная Федерация
Библиотечных Ассоциаций и Учреждений

IFLA

SECTION FOR LIBRARIES SERVING
DISADVANTAGED PERSONS

REPORT 1985/6

At the Section's Standing Committee meeting in Chicago a new Chairperson, Gunilla Malmgren-Neale from Sweden, was elected and former Chairperson Phyllis Noaks was appointed as Secretary. Following the Conference four newcomers(three from the U.S.A. and one from Poland), were welcomed to the Standing Committee, and during 1985 three corresponding members from Australia, Japan and New Zealand also joined the committee. This now brings the membership of the Standing Committee to twelve, a welcome increase, but still below the full complement of twenty. Nomination papers will be issued to IFLA members early in 1987 and it is hoped that interested IFLA members will join our Section and in their turn nominate new Standing Committee members.

The Chairperson attended a meeting of the Coordinating Board in Gothenburg,Sweden, in February 1986, at which one of the items discussed was the Section's new terms of reference, drawn up to include the new responsibilities for library services to penal institutions. These terms of reference have now been approved by the Professional Board and are quoted here:-

'The concern of this Section is the promotion of services to those members of the community who are unable to use library services available to others e.g. hospital patients and people in penal institutions.

Promotion of services to those who find difficulties in using available library services - e.g. housebound people, and elderly people using centres or living in homes.

Promotion of library services to people who are handicapped and who live in the community - e.g.the mentally and physically handicapped, including the deaf.

To improve libraries in hospitals and to promote professionalism in this field.

To provide a forum for discussion on the reading problems of the handicapped.'

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Publications

With the generous assistance of the Division of Special Libraries, a selection of papers from the Section's International Course in Sweden 1982 have been printed in INSPEL(Vol.19.No.4) the journal of the Division. We acknowledge with many thanks, the help of Mr. Kruse, Editor of INSPEL, and Ms. M.J.Lewis, who edited the papers.

Working Groups

a) Working Group to identify the library needs of the Deaf.

The Chairperson, W.Anderson(U.K.) continues to collate information from other countries on library services to the deaf and a draft manual on training is being considered. The Working Group will be holding an open session at the Tokyo Conference.

b) Working Group on Easy Reader Publications.

It is planned to set up the Working Group at the Tokyo Conference. A paper will be given, followed by discussion on the future work of the Group.

c) Working Group on Library Services to Penal Institutions

This Working Group was set up at the Chicago Conference, when a very successful double session on prison library services was held. The elected Chairperson, Phyllis Dalton(U.S.A.) has done valuable groundwork since then and has prepared a programme for 1987 - 1992. An article on the subject by Bjorg Heie (Norway) will appear in the Spring issue of the IFLA Journal. Letters have been sent to all countries asking for information on prison library services, and a draft brochure on the Working Group has been circulated to members. There will be an open meeting of the Working Group in Tokyo, when Stephen Wallinger(U.S.A.) will present a paper. Proposals for a pre-conference seminar in the United Kingdom in 1987 have been approved.

The work of the Standing Committee has been maintained by correspondence as it was not possible to hold a meeting in the Spring. It is hoped most SC members will be able to make the journey to Tokyo

Phyllis Noaks, Secretary.
May 1986.

SECTION ON LIBRARY SERVICES TO MULTICULTURAL POPULATIONS

Division of Libraries Serving the General Public

Chairman : Michael Foster, Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, London W8 6NQ, UK Tel: +44 1 603 4535 x 233

Secretary : Neville Price, North Kensington Library, 108 Ladbroke Grove, London W11 1PZ, UK Tel: +44 1 221 2917

Finance Officer : Miklos Gulyas Stockholms Stadsbibliotek, Box 12199, 102 25 Stockholm, Sweden Tel: +46 8 23 66 00

ANNUAL REPORT 1985-1986

The Round Table became a provisional Section of IFLA at a meeting of the Professional Board held in The Hague in November 1985, with the following terms of reference

1 To make information available on library provision, practice and materials for linguistic and cultural minorities for librarians planning and carrying out the provision of such services.

2 To provide a forum for the exchange of information concerning the development of multilingual and multicultural library services.

3 To work towards the integration of such services into the general management pattern of library authorities and institutions.

4 To promote the study of library services to multicultural populations in library and information studies departments of universities and colleges throughout the world.

5 To provide bibliographical guidance to the literature of library provision for multicultural populations.

6 To promote research and publications on multicultural library services and to provide and publish a register of research.

7 To develop and publish guidelines on library services to multicultural populations.

8 To co-operate with other national and international organisations working in this field.

9 To survey current practice and promote the employment of members of linguistic and cultural minorities in libraries.

10 To combat racism among library workers and managements, and to promote an enlightened approach to racial matters in the selection of library materials.

2/...

Recruitment literature was sent out during January 1986 to encourage membership of the new Section. Nominations for the Standing Committee of the Section will be called for in the Autumn of 1986.

An issue of the **Newsletter** (New Series No 3) was issued in December 1985 and sent to 40 subscribers, IFLA Officers and library journals etc.

Planning for the Pre-Conference Seminar to be held in Tokyo 21-22 August 1986 at Nippon University, **Automated systems for access to multilingual and multiscript library materials: problems and solutions** proceeded well, though there were some difficulties in securing suitable speakers and finalising the programme. The Conference planning was carried out by Mrs Marie Zielinska of the National Library of Canada and by Ms Cynthia Durance, also of the National Library of Canada with the co-operation of Mrs Natsuko Furuya, the Moderator of the Seminar, of UTLAS Inc, Toronto, and the local organising committee in Japan. Detailed programmes were finally ready in March and were sent out on a wide mailing list.

Planning for the two meetings of the Section in the Tokyo Conference, and for the joint meeting with the Round Table on Audio Visual Media was carried out by the Secretary, Neville Price, and the following speakers and papers were promised.

S. Sever (Haifa, Israel) Use of technology in fostering literacy among minorities

E. Kempson (Somerset, UK) Information services for suppressed minorities

Katsuharu Sagaguchi (Oshaka-shi, Japan) Why Asia Hall? Its purpose and grass-roots preparation

E.J. Josey (Albany, USA) Older members of minority groups in New York State

E. Cohn (Bronx, USA) New audio visual ideas to promote freedom of expression for minorities

Two meetings of the Standing Committee (Advisory Committee) were programmed for the Tokyo Conference.

Preliminary planning of the Pre-Conference Seminar on **Multicultural Librarianship** to take place in August 1987 at the Commonwealth Institute in advance of the IFLA Conference in Brighton, UK was undertaken by Radha Rasmussen and a draft programme was produced. Some of the speakers have already agreed to take part in this three day meeting, which will also include some visits to multicultural libraries in the London area.

Preliminary planning of the meetings of the Section at the 1987 Brighton, UK, Conference was undertaken by the Secretary, Neville Price, and a draft programme produced.

Financial budgets for 1987 were drawn up by the Chairman, Secretary and Finance Officer at a meeting in Göteborg, Sweden in February and sent to IFLA Headquarters for the Professional Board meeting. It was learned later that the Section would receive the full Dfl 1500 for administrative purposes in 1987 and that the following projects had received funding.

Checklist of publications (Project Officer, Neville Price) Dfl 2565

Conference papers collection publication Dfl 1550

3/...

Guidelines on Multicultural Library Services (Project Officers, A. Holmes, and D. Whitehead) Dfl 1550

Handbook series of publications (Project Officers M. Zielinska and S. Manoogian) Dfl 2050

Pre-Conference Seminar 1987 on Multicultural Librarianship (Project Officer R. Rasmussen) Dfl 2340

The project for the publication of a Journal of Multicultural Librarianship was rejected by the Professional Board on the grounds that project money is not given for periodicals.

The Chairman, Michael Foster, Secretary, Neville Price, and Finance Officer, Miklos Gulyas attended a meeting of the Co-ordinating Board of the Division of Libraries Serving the General Public in Göteborg, Sweden in February 1986. In a further meeting after the meetings of the Co-ordinating Board, the officers of the Section completed the financial statement for 1985 and this was subsequently sent to IFLA Headquarters.

Michael Foster
Chairman

15 May 1986

SECTION OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Annual report August 1985 - July 1986

General Conference 1985, Chicago.

The Section organised three meetings. In the first one a revised version of the Standards for Public Libraries was presented. It will be published under the title "Guidelines for Public Libraries". In the same meeting a paper on Standards for Catalonian Libraries was presented. In the second meeting one of the participants in the Pre-conference Seminar presented a paper on Public Library Development in Brazil, followed by a panel discussion on library work in mainly rural areas. Assimilating the Micro: the Use of Microcomputers in Public Library Services" was the theme of the third meeting.
In a combined session with the Section of Children's Libraries three American authors: B.F. Chaaf, F.P. Heide and W.B. Lincoln gave their view on libraries and librarians.

Projects.

The Section of Public Libraries has launched or is preparing a number of projects, which all are included in IFLA's Medium Term Programme 1986-1191.

1. Charging for Public Library Service.

Confronted by the fact that, in spite of the UNESCO Public Library Manifesto, several countries have introduced charges for (part of) the public library service the Section decided to set up a working group to study this problem. Its findings will be presented as a paper in the General Conference 1986.

2. Adult Education.

As public libraries play an increasing role in adult education a working group has been charged with a study on the role of public libraries in adult education.

3. Measurement of Performance of Public Libraries.

As it was generally felt that measuring performance of public libraries in number of users and issues is no longer sufficient to justify libraries to the authorities who finance them, a working group has been charged with a study of more sophisticated ways of measuring the effects of public library service. They have invited a number of library researchers to send in proposals for a thorough report on the subject. A final decision on a contractor will be taken in the Section Committee meeting in Tokyo and will be influenced by the possibility of

obtaining funds for the project.

4. Illiteracy.

Illiteracy is a problem not only in developing countries bu also of growing concern in the industrialised parts of the world. A working group has been set up and will report on the subject.

5. Dual Use Libraries.

In many countries libraries serve a dual purpose; besides serving a school they also serve the local community. This brings specific problems and possibilities which will be discussed by a working group which will be formed in Tokyo.

6. Libraries at the Work Place.

Although a study by Unesco on the subject was published some years ago it was decidéd to be of such an interest that a working group will be charged with a report on the role public libraries can play in provinding library service to factories and enterprises.

7. Future projects.

Also included in the Medium Term Programme are studies on Information Technology and Community Information.

Newsletter.

Unfortunately no newsletter was published in the past year. It is hoped that publication can be resumed after the 1986 General Conference.

Composition of the Standing Committee.

An important change in the composition of the Standing Committee tèok place in 1985. M. Abkulut (Turkey), F. Andrae (FRG), J. Daugbjerg (Denmark), C. de Garcia Moreno (Mexico), I. Papp (Hungary), V.V. Serov (USSR) and P. Sullivan (USA) completed their second term of office and could not be renominated. Newly nominated were W. Andresen (FRG), G. Beyersdorff (FRG), A. Nordgarden Grimstad (Norway), J. Kiss (Hungary), V. Lesokhina (USSR), E. Di Mattia Jr (USA), V. Papazova (Bulgaria) and as a corresponding member H. Tait (New Zealand).
M. l'Abbate Widmann (Italy), E.M. Broome (Great Britain), G. Dillsworth (Sierra Leone), J. Kohout (CSSR), H. Mozes (Netherlands), P. Sanz (France) and I. Schumann (GDR) were renominated for a second term of office. The other members of the Committee are: J.B. Glistrup(Denmark), M. Brooking Negrão (Brazil), T. Saglamtunç (Turkey), M. Törngren (Sweden) and S. Wallis (South Africa).
E.M. Broome was re-elected as Chairman, H. Mozes as Secretary/Financial Officer.

School Libraries Section
Annual Report
May 15, 1986

At the Section Meeting in Chicago, August 1986, a new Chairperson, Anne M. Galler, from Canada, as well as a new Secretary, Lucille Thomas, U.S. were elected. Both were able to attend the Coordinating Board Meeting which was held on February 27, 1986 in Gothenburg, Sweden, and appreciated the hospitality extended by our Swedish colleagues. It also gave the opportunity to the two new officers to meet with the Chairmen and Secretaries of the other Sections which form part of the Division of Libraries serving the General Public.

Other Officers of the Section are as follows:

Astrid Lauster - Treasurer
Roger Stringer - Publicity

Ann Irving as past Chairperson offered to organize the Tokyo Conference.

Tokyo Conference August 24 - 31, 1986

Plans are well under way for the meetings of the School Libraries Section which will take place on Wednesday, all day. The following activities are planned:

A visit to a downtown high school library before noon.

Two sessions back-to-back in the afternoon, with two speakers from Japan (Kyoto Koyama and Yoshizo Kasahara) and one from New Zealand (Gwen Gawith).

The three speakers will be followed by a slide/tape presentation on a typical Canadian school library by Anne M. Galler and a typical German school library by Astrid Lauster.

Division of Libraries Serving the General Public

The work of this Section will be presented by Anne M. Galler to the Division of Libraries Serving the General Public at the Tokyo Conference. She will be allowed half an hour's time to present the topic in depth.

Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference of the Section are badly in need of reformulation. A proposal will be presented by the Chairman of the Section to the members of the Standing Committee to be discussed during the Tokyo meeting. This will allow the Section to submit the new Terms of Reference to the Coordinating Board during the Tokyo Conference.

Publications

The Guidelines for the Education and Training of School Librarians, edited by Sigrun Hannesdottir has been published as No. 9 in the series, "IFLA Professional Reports". It is available from IFLA Headquarters for US$5.00 or Dfl.15.00.

Newsletter

Requests went out to the membership for contributions in other languages besides English for the Newsletter. It is possible that the 1986 edition will not contain articles in French or German, but by sensitizing the membership of the Section to the idea of having a multi-lingual newsletter will hopefully come to fruition next year.

We hope that this will also lead to increased membership in the Section.

Projects

The following three projects for which IFLA funding was obtained, are currently in the works, i.e.:-

1. Guidelines for the Planning and Organization of School Libraries. A revision (L. Carroll).

2. How copyright legislaiton affects school libraries - an article for the IFLA journal (J. Lowrie).

3. The School Library Influence on Student Learning - an exploratory study (A. Galler).

4. An article on UAP and the Schoold Library was submitted to Education Libraries (A. Galler).

Respectfully submitted by

Anne M. Galler

Anne M. Galler
Chairperson
School Libraries Section

AMG/sc

ROUND TABLE OF NATIONAL CENTRES FOR LIBRARY SERVICES (ROTNAC)

Annual report 1985/86

ROTNAC has seen a very active year.

First of all, the Working Group on Foreign Literature met after the IFLA Conference in Chicago. Apart from an exchange of experience, arrangements were made to make use of one another's products and services.

In April 1986 the Working Group on Automation had a meeting. This Working Group is engaged in all kinds of developments in the field of online retrieval systems and the tasks of the national centres in this connection. They are particularly considering a host function of data banks.

In May ROTNAC itself had a business meeting, and held an exchange of various policy developments and concrete new products.
On the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the Dutch Library Service (NBD), this meeting was followed by a seminar on central purchasing and processing books, with particular emphasis on the economic and technical aspects of central binding of library books.

By the end of May the meeting of the Working Group on Management Information was held in Copenhagen. Short-term and long-term policy planning and determination, and in particular that of the economic policy, were discussed here.

Reports of these meetings were published in Newsletter 1 of ROTNAC.
Since the IFLA Conference the Newsletter was published twice (circulation: 350).
On the 1st of July 1986 14 national centres were members of ROTNAC.

D. Reumer,
Chairman, ROTNAC.

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IFLA

1986

IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE, TOKYO

Division: Libraries Serving the General Public

Section: xxx

56-GENPU-2-E

Past, Present and Future of the School Library Section of IFLA

By

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KEYWORD(S):

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I have been Chairman of the School Libraries Section for barely a year and a member of the Standing Committee for three, and I am pleased and proud to present to you today the work of the School Libraries Section.

Outline

I will address the following areas:

Membership

Terms of Reference - Preamble to Medium Term Programme

History

Difference between school, children's and public libraries sections

Publications

Plans for future activities

Meeting IFLA goals

Cooperation with other groups

History

According to the latest IFLA statistics the Section has 85 members, representing 44 countries on 5 continents.

The Standing Committee membership consists of representatives from Australia, Canada, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Great Britain and the U.S.

The 12 corresponding members originate from Chile, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon, New Zealand, Tanzania, the U.S. and Zimbabwe.

Terms of Reference

The current terms of reference read as follows: The School Libraries Section

- to act as an international forum for communication with all sectors concerning the growing interest in school library service
- to plan projects to assist in the development of school libraries throughout the world.

The terms of reference are now 10 years old and in need of being rewritten and expanded to reflect the current aims, objectives and activities of the Section. With input from the Standing Committee's membership, these new terms of reference have been drafted and will, I hope, be ratified during the current Conference here in Tokyo.

At this point I would like to quote from the Preamble to the School Libraries Section Medium Term (1986-91) Programme, 0784

which I feel more adequately reflects what school librarianship is all about.

"The use of the school library is the foundation for the use of all other libraries. Literacy is nurtured in schools and is the prerequisite for all subsequent library and information use.

The role of the school library is multifaceted, of which three most important functions are as follows:

to teach the child to access materials in school library;
to teach the child how to use the materials thus accessed;
to teach the child critical thinking, i.e. to be able to choose judiciously from the material presented." 1

History

The School Libraries Section applied for official membership in IFLA 10 years ago in 1976 and was first listed as a Section in 1977.

Long before this event there was agitation on behalf of an international group of school librarians to be recognized by IFLA.

Thus in 1973, in Grenoble, France, a Planning Group consisting of 12 international members was formed. This Planning Group succeeded also to have IFLA create a Sub-Section of the Public Libraries Section, to provide for the interests and needs of school libraries. Dr. Frances Carroll became the Chairman of this Sub-Section, and the first official meetings were scheduled for the 1974 IFLA Conference in Washington, D.C.

This was only an interim measure, because the Planning Group continued to meet and agitate for full Section status - especially since according to the new IFLA Structures, a Sub-Section would not necessarily have representation on the Professional Board to which it thus would have to report via the Section on Public Libraries.

One of the first tasks of the Planning Group was the establishment of its entity, separate and different from others, mainly the Children's Libraries Section. The essential purpose of the school library, to quote from Malcolm S. Adiseshiah, Deputy Director General, Unesco, is

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[1] IFLA. Medium Term Programme, 1986-1991. (The Hague, IFLA, 1985). p. 33.

"to assist primary school teachers and secondary school professors in their teaching functions; to help students to complete and perfect their school education." 2

This, however, did not mean that the School Libraries Section disassociated itself from the Children's Libraries Section. On the contrary, from the beginning a very close relationship was developed between these two Sections, with exchange of Minutes and Newsletters and also the organization of joint activities. This fruitful cooperation has continued and will continue, we hope, in the future.

1974 - Washington, November 18-21

The School Libraries Sub-Section organized the following program:

"Place of School Library Work Within IFLA". This was an attempt to sensitize members of IFLA to the fact that the group wanted official recognition here.

During the Conference attempts were being made by local (Washington) School Librarians to make as many IFLA delegates as possible aware of School Libraries, and present them with material on School Libraries to take back to their respective countries.

1975 - Oslo, August 11-15

The Planning Group for School Librarians met again during this Conference.

Discussion centered around IFLA's Draft Medium Term Programme, for 1975-80.

The School Library Programme proposed for the following five years was as follows:

- The School Library as a Resource Centre
- Central Direction of the Libraries of a School System
- School Libraries as a Part of a National Library System
- The Professional Education of School Librarians

1976 - Lausanne

The School Libraries Section - still called the Planning Group was listed for the first time in the official IFLA Program, on August 25th. The title of the entry was:

"Information Dissemination through School and Public Libraries"

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[2]Malcolm S. Adiseshiah. "Libraries As a Force in Education". Moscow, 36th General Council of IFLA, August 31, 1970. p. 6.

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The papers presented were on "Public and School Library Cooperation: "Education of School Librarians" and "The Conversion of Secondary School Libraries into Multimedia Centers: an Experience in the Canton of Geneva".

1977 - Brussels

The School Libraries Section was finally officially recognized by IFLA.

Difference between School, Public and Children's Section

As promised in my outline, I wish to point out here the basic differences between Children's, Public and School Libraries by describing the difference in the work of these three Sections. It appears that more often than not the need for a separate School Libraries Section is not readily perceived by members of IFLA or the public at large.

The most important difference in my estimation is the fact that the primary function of Children's and Public Libraries is to serve their constituencies, the emphasis being on service. In the case of the Children's Libraries, this is well-defined as to age and in the case of Public Libraries embraces a very large and disparate group of people. Still, their main function is to serve the public at various age levels, from childhood to old age.

The School Library on the other hand, in addition to serving a well-defined group, the elementary and high school student, fulfills another very important function, namely, that of augmenting, supporting and enriching of the curriculum.

The School Library also fills another important role, that of teaching elementary and high school students how to find materials, how to use materials and how to develop critical thinking.

In this respect the School Library acts more like a special library - its first and foremost function is to serve the school; pupils, educators and administrators, the same way as a business library serves its clientele.

Many debates have gone on over the years as to the role, function and background of the school librarian - whether she should be a teacher or librarian first and foremost. While the debate still remains unresolved, my personal view is that

a good mixture of the two is the ideal: a teacher who is aware of the curriculum but is also a trained librarian and can introduce pupils to the library's role and function, is the best possible person. Thus, the school librarian is a very "special" librarian as she has to combine teaching skills with library skills.

IFLA Goals

The School Libraries Section can point to the fact that it is meeting the IFLA goals of meetings, publications and research.

Meetings

While attendance at meetings during the annual Conference represents a difficulty for school librarians, as these often coincide unfortunately with the beginning of the school year, and funding for school librarians is even more scarce than for others, we had always especially good results in the places where the Conferences were held.

Most recently in Kenya (84) many school librarians attended our one-day seminar on "School Librarianship in Africa" (subsequently published by IFLA). This seminar allowed local, Kenyan and school librarians from neighbouring African countries the opportunity to meet with school librarians from other countries (mostly the Standing Members of the Committee). As a result many of these librarians became corresponding members of our Section and consequently are on the mailing list for our publications.

We hope to achieve the same result with this current Conference in Tokyo. At the request of the local school librarians, we again adopted the full-day seminar format, allowing the Japanese school librarians to spend a full day with us. Hopefully, many of them will want to become corresponding members of the Section. We also hope that this personal contact will encourage them to participate in our activities in the future.

PUBLICATIONS

Newsletter

Ten issues of the Newsletter have been published to date, representing about one per year.

The original aim of the Newsletter was to facilitate international exchange of information on matters relating to school libraries, to keep interested members informed on the Section's plans and activities, to promote and encourage active participation in furthering the work of the Section and the development of School Libraries worldwide.

While the information aspect has been maintained and the members in 44 countries receive the Newsletter, it has so far been only a one-way street - i.e. while occasionally members of the Standing Committee have contributed to the Newsletter, it has largely been the role of the Chairman to compile, write and edit it.

I hope to change this in the future. In the May 1986 issue I proposed a 5-point improvement strategy:

1) Encourage input from the membership at large
2) Make the Newsletter multilingual - add items in most of the official IFLA languages
3) Increase the size
4) Increase the frequency
5) Update and expand the mailing list.

Papers and Guidelines

In addition to the Newsletter, which is a serial, we have produced the following three very important and useful publications.

1) Guidelines for the Education and Training of School Librarians
2) Guidelines for the Planning and Organization of School Library Media Centres
3) Teachers - Information and School Libraries - Guidelines for the Instruction of Teachers in the Educational and Curricular Use of School Libraries.

The Section presented a highly successful seminar in Costa Rica in 1978 on:

Education of School Librarians in Latin America.

The Proceedings of this seminar were subsequently published.

Future Plans

At present, in addition to the redrafting of the Terms of Reference and an expanded Newsletter, the Section is working on the following projects:

1) An article on how copyright affects the School Library

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2) A series of articles on Universal Availability of Publications, the first of which was published in the May issue of Education Libraries.

3) The revision of the Guidelines for the Education and Training of School Librarians with a December 1986 deadline.

4) Linking the academic achievement of the pupil to the excellence of the school library. A pilot study is being compiled in Canada, the results of which will allow us to proceed with case studies in other countries, both developing and developed.

5) A textbook for school librarianship - a modular format is being studied which would make the textbook more flexible and accessible at different levels - to assist the teacher and the teacher-librarian for developing and developed countries.

Cooperation with International Bodies other than IFLA

The School Libraries Section has always closely cooperated with other Sections within the division of Service to the General Public, most frequently with the Children's and Public Libraries Section.

In the future we would also like to extend this cooperation to Sections within other Divisions. For example, the Library Research Section, the Library Schools Section and possibly others. Our interest in the Research Section is obvious, as we want to strengthen the research component in the School Libraries field. As far as the Library School Section is concerned, we are always very concerned with the education and training of the school librarian.

It is worth mentioning that as early as 1973 the organization called International Association of School Librarians has been represented within the School Library Group. Thus, another fruitful cooperation has continued throughout the years and is still continuing. As a matter of fact, I represented the School Libraries Section of IFLA at the most recent IASL Conference held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, in July and was invited to be one of the key-note speakers. This cooperation allows our Section to maintain its liaison with educators throughout the world.

Papers Presented during the last 10 Years of IFLA Conferences

In 1984 one of the members of the Standing Committee agreed to edit the papers presented under the aegis of the School

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Libraries Section at IFLA Conferences since 1976. We hope that these papers, about 30 of them, will be published by the end of 1987 to mark the first decade of the Section's presence at IFLA.

To indicate trends and the wide variety of topics covered, I will cite a few of the titles that are to be compiled into a volume on school librarianship:

1978	School Libraries as part of a National Network	By R. Horowitz from Venezuela
1978	Educating Library Users in Schools	By Ann Irving from Great Britain
1979	Education of School Librarians - some Alternatives	By Sigrun Hannesdottir from Iceland
1979	Practical Aspects of School Library Legislation	By Aase Bredsdorff from Denmark
1980	Extending School Library and Community Information Services to a Scattered Population: Papua New Guinea	By Deveni Temu from Papua New Guinea
1980	Developing and Exchanging Learning Materials for Greater International Understanding	By Candida C. Aggaoili from The Philippines
1982	L'automatisation centralisée des centres nationaux au réseau des bibliothèque d'écoles	By Dick Reumer from The Netherlands
1983	Information Technology for School Children	By Jean C. Beck from the U.K.
1985	Effective Management and Use of Secondary School Libraries	By Birgit Dankert from the Federal Republic of Germany

The above is only a sampling of the variety of subjects addressed by our Section by speakers coming from the four corners of the world. From the diversity of the topics, you will gather the wide range of concerns the Section has addressed in the past and will continue to address in the future. We also enjoy the different points of view expressed by our speakers coming from such widely different areas as Papua, Iceland, U.K., Venezuela, Federal Republic of Germany and many others.

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IFLA

1986

IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE, TOKYO

Division:

Section:

192-AVM-4 E

Audiovisual Media and Libraries for people with disabilities

by

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KEYWORD(S):

AV media
Disabled
Public Libraries

For internal use only:

To be brought to meeting no:

106

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for distribution only ☐

4772

AV MEDIA AND LIBRARIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

First, I should explain my current interest in this topic. I am an audiovisual librarian working in a large public library, and although my immediate field of activity relates primarily to sound recordings and video services, I also have a responsibility to look at the various ways in which the whole range of audiovisual materials (non-book materials) and their associated equipment can be used throughout the entire library service. This means I must consider how the various formats - pictures, audiotapes, films and videos, computer software, tape-slide sequences etc - can be used in a variety of public service points to meet a variety of needs. Over the years, this has brought me into contact with staff working in hospital libraries, services to children, reference departments, local history units, school libraries, as well as in general lending libraries which have extended their traditional print-based services to include non-print materials.

It is this last aspect I would like to talk about, to look at ways in which the provision of non-book materials can help to overcome some of the problems which may exist for handicapped people in their use of public library services. At this point, I should add that I am very conscious that many, indeed, probably most of you are actively engaged in specialist work, for example, in a hospital library or in schools for handicapped children, and it would be presumptuous of me therefore to talk about such work. I may refer in passing to such provision, but my main concern today is how the local neighbourhood library (or the main central library with its reference, information and lending services) might improve its services and facilities, so that people with a handicap (or multiple

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handicaps) may feel encouraged to visit and to use it in the same way as other members of the community.

1981 was the International Year of Disabled People. It increased public awareness of the many varied problems experienced by people with handicaps; it accelerated new technological developments to help the disabled; it also encouraged librarians to improve their services for handicapped readers. We can all probably point to some slight improvements in our services - a few more ramps to help those in wheelchairs, better provision for the blind and visually handicapped - yet one must question whether the momentum created during 1981 has been maintained. All too often, improvements were limited to the library's 'Special Services Department' - housebound library services, patients' libraries in hospitals - with a sideways glance at how many talking books might be provided in the general lending library. In my view, progress has been very slow and very limited. A community librarian needs to look critically at provision in his/her own library to assess whether it is relevant to the needs of the entire community, or whether it is suitable only for those with no communication problem.

The public library is a focal point in any community. It is in a unique position to inform and help organisations, groups and individuals - including people with handicaps. It belongs to the community. It provides an informal atmosphere in which individuals can follow (at their own pace) their interests and hobbies, as well as being a valuable public reference and information source. As stated in the IFLA Guidelines for AV materials in public libraries (IFLA Journal, vol. 11, no. 3 (1985), p. 234-239):

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"A public library exists to serve its community and consequently the needs of all members of that community must be accommodated - the old and the young, the able and the disabled, the gifted and backward members of society"

and in relation to audiovisual materials, the guidelines continue:

"Audiovisual materials can reach out to sections of the public for whom the traditional print-based materials have little impact, e.g. to those who are reluctant to use the printed word, to those with visual and other handicaps".

Here, we are talking about different methods of communication - about visual methods (pictures, film, video, slides), about audio or aural methods (records, cassette tapes, Kurzweil Reading Machine), about tactile materials, and so on. All convey information and are important as communication aids. Indeed, the word 'communication' provides the key to this paper. Communication - the art of understanding and being understood - is essential in any information service. I believe librarians have gone beyond the passive provision of books and information, but are now - or should be - concerned about the method in which that information can be communicated to people. Information is now available in many different formats and librarians must consider the potential of different materials and how they can be used in a variety of situations and with different groups/categories of library user. As Margaret Marshall MacDonald says in her book Libraries and the handicapped child (1981):

"A library's purpose for being is to facilitate communication through print and non-print sources ..."

and

"To be shut off from such communication in the library for lack of equipment makes a mockery of the principle that libraries are open to all and the information freely available."

This then forms the basis for my paper. I mention it in some detail as the 'communication' concept is essential to the understanding of how librarians working in general libraries can respond to situations requiring a slightly different approach - in particular, where the main form of communication is not print-based.

Let us now look at some of these audiovisual materials and their associated equipment. I cannot, in the time available, do more than provide a glimpse into the whole range of possibilities. I shall therefore concentrate on how library services can be made more accessible to those with the main communications handicaps - loss of sight, of hearing and of speech.

At this stage, may I draw your attention to two publications which include a number of case studies describing provision to those with handicaps:

1. Audiovisual Media and the Disabled

   (IFLA Round Table on AV Media. 1982. NBLC)

   Three case studies on provision in a children's hospital in Sweden; provision for the blind and other groups of handicapped in reading in Denmark; and the USA Library of Congress service supporting the provision of audio and tactile books for the blind and physically handicapped.

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2. Inspel Vol 19, No. 4, 1985.

(IFLA Division of Special Libraries)

This issue includes papers given during a course which took place in Sweden in 1982. The papers are based on Swedish library services to the elderly, to those in hospitals, to the blind, to the deaf, and to those with various reading disabilities.

All these case studies provide useful examples of how a variety of materials can be used in different situations - not all, however, deal with the ways in which these materials can be incorporated into the general library service point.

What action can the Lending Librarian or the Reference Librarian take? What are the most important stages of development?

1. Staff Awareness

It is important that every member of staff realises that they can contribute towards improving services for the disabled - in one way or another. In my own authority, staff at all levels are involved in looking at ways in which the library service can be improved. In addition, greater understanding of communication problems can lead to a more relaxed and helpful response by the library assistant. The importance of regular training sessions for all staff, both senior and junior members, cannot be overstated.

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2. Contact and dialogue with handicapped groups and individuals

It is important that libraries respond to the expressed needs of those with a handicap, rather than imposing what they think is relevant. The more frequent the dialogue, the more relevant the service. Tours of the library also bring increased interest in the facilities and resources on offer.

3. Examination of existing resources and services, both inside and outside the library

Not only should staff be aware of the range of materials and services within their own library system, they should also know of outside agencies where help, support and advice might be obtained.

4. Positive action towards implementing proposals for improvement

This is fundamental to any improvement in making library services more acceptable and more accessible to people with handicaps.

What provision, in audiovisual terms, are we talking about? My examples are drawn mainly from the United Kingdom, though I shall refer to developments elsewhere when relevant. The list which follows is far from exhaustive, but relates to materials and equipment which are becoming more commonplace in libraries. It is how we use these items, and how we relate to those who have difficulty in using a library, which is important.

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For the blind and partially sighted

- audiocassettes, gramophone records
- talking books, talking newspapers (including production)
- magnifying aids, reading stands
- tactile maps and plans
- braille print
- Kurzweil Reading Machine (plus brailler, extra)
- brailling machines
- typewriters (standard and large print)
- radio
- optical aids, CCTV

Rooms and facilities to enable a blind person to record onto tape.

For the hearing impaired

(It is important to distinguish between those born deaf - referred to as the pre-lingually deaf - and those who lose their hearing at a later age, after they have acquired speech and reading skills).

- visual materials, illustrations, etc
- video (signed, sub-titled)
- easy-to-read texts (for the pre-lingually deaf)
- tele-aids
- induction loop system
- Telephone Exchange for the Deaf (TED)
  plus brailler for use by deaf-blind people
- Vistel

Area where the library staff and the deaf person can communicate without distraction (or drawing public attention to the disability) - and which is away from the pressures of a busy counter or enquiry desk.

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There are also a number of computer-based developments which can have a place within the public library - and many of these programs are designed to help children. They are already being used in schools and special units for the handicapped and there is no reason (apart from money) why this type of equipment should not become more easily available in the local library.

Much work has been done to help children with handicaps, and there are some excellent texts published which discuss the nature of the many various handicaps, also the work done in many hospitals, schools and other children's centres.

The problems of communication deepen as children grow up and leave the school having learnt to use quite sophisticated and expensive communication aids, e.g. microcomputers adapted for different handicaps. Once outside this environment, the skills children have developed using these methods may lapse because similar equipment is not available elsewhere. Such a situation does not encourage integration into the community, but forces them to turn to specialist organisations for help. Of course, specialist centres can do much more than the local branch library, but this should not excuse librarians from making some of these machines available in their libraries. In view of the fact that considerable amounts of money are spent on installing systems for the transmission of print-based information to people with no handicaps, it is necessary to question to what extent similar help is afforded to those who have the additional problem of a disability.

Shortened Version
192 - AVM - yE
meeting 106

106. Libraries serving Disadvantaged Persons I / AV Media I

Audiovisual Media and Libraries for people with disabilities

Catherine F Pinion

(Summary)

This paper discusses the main problems of how to make libraries more accessible to people suffering from a variety of disabilities; for example, to the deaf, to those with speech problems, to the blind, to the physically handicapped and so on. The first barrier to surmount may be that of actual physical access to the library. Help may be afforded by means of ramps to avoid the use of steps by the physically infirm or visually handicapped, as well as to the aged. Once inside the library, staff attitudes and understanding can influence a disabled person's confidence in using library resources. For many, the first great barrier to using a library, is a psychological one and it takes courage for them to enter the library and ask a question, particularly if the disability affects speech and hearing. Today, most public libraries purchase a variety of audiovisual materials - records, cassettes. videos, slide sequences, pictures, illustrations, computer software - and an increasing number of libraries are attempting to provide 'resource centre' facilities for use by the community. As the public library is a focal point for the community it serves, there is a need for librarians to consider more closely the ways in which the provision of such materials and facilities might encourage those with disabilities to use the library. The paper concludes with slide illustration of examples of audiovisual materials and equipment aids.

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Computerizing Library Services for the Handicapped: Some Japanese Issues

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Computerizing Library Services for the Handicapped: Some Japanese Issues

Jun Ishikawa

I would like to express my gratitude for the valuable comments from Hiroshi Kawamura and editorial help from Virginia Okamura.

[1] Multi-script Situation in written Japanese

Japanese is a typical multi-script language. It is written with kanji, hirakana, katakana, Romaji (Romanized Japanese) and braille. Among these scripts the kanji characters are ideograms with 40000 ideographic characters available of which about 20% are in frequent use, while the others are phonograms. Except for braille, the Japanese writing style is a mixture of all these scripts. This multi-script situation in Japanese makes it difficult to computerize library services for the visually handicapped. This is my major concern.

Braille is a universal script. Each single letter in braille is composed of arrangements of 6 dots. This means that braille has at most 64 different combinations (including a blank). This capacity of the braille code is half of a 7 bit computer code and one fourth of an 8 bit computer code. Because of this limitation, a braille computer code, like the NABCC (North American Braille Computer Code) or the EBCC (European Braille Computer Code) is a subset of the ASCII code. As a consequence, upper case and lower case letters are not discernible in these braille computer codes. As an attempt to solve these problems, an 8-bit braille computer code is being developed in Europe, which has a one-to-one correspondence with an 8 bit computer code, and can keep up with extension of the computer code to cover non-English Roman letters. But, I suspect that this effort in Europe may not be shared by ordinary braille users, because the discernibility by touch of 8-dot braille is

much lower than that of the 6-dot code. In addition, most standard braille codes in European languages possess sophisticated contraction systems (for instance, English braille grade II), and the visually handicapped are very much used to these contracted braille codes.
(Another way to overcome the limitation without going to an 8-dot braille is to use two 6-dot braille letters to signify a character. This is what Japanese braille computer code does.)
They would rather use 6-dot contracted braille for computer operation, although there exists relatively big discrepancy of writing systems between Roman script and standard contracted braille in each European language. However, this discrepancy apparently poses no serious problem, since it is caused by the contraction system of each of the braille codes. If a contraction system is logically constructed, conversion between Roman script and braille is theoretically programmable. In fact, conversion software in some European languages (such as English and German) has already been developed.

In contrast, inter-script communication in Japanese is a difficult task. Perfect conversion between ideographic and phonetic symbols is ultimately impossible. The great number of homonyms is the obstacle in converting from the phonetic to the ideographic system. Phonetically each word can correspond to many different ideograms. As for conversion from ideograms to phonetic writing, since each ideograph can have several different pronounciation, each one must be transliterated into a different phonetic word according to the context. This complexity places a heavy burden on Japanese word processing. The central feature of Japanese word processing is the technique of kana-kanji conversion (kana means both hirakana and katakana.) Although Japanese word

processing techniques to increase adequacy and efficiency of conversion have been well developed, because of the limitation caused by multivocality of phonetic words, users have to select a needed kanji by looking at the screen after typing in kana and hitting the conversion key. Japanese word processing, therefore, is heavily dependent on vision. This dependence on the screen seems to be an insurmountable problem for the visually handicapped.

(16 bit kanji computer code systems such as JIS code, Shift JIS code, ATT Japanese code, EBCDIC Japanese code are defined for a portion of the available 40000 kanji characters.)

[2] Development of Kanji Braille

A viable method of hurdling this obstacle is the development of kanji braille. As you can easily imagine, braille is not suitable to ideographic writing. Up to now, all braille codes are phonetic even in the culture using an ideographic writing system. As far as I know, kanji braille is the only ideographic braille code. As I mentioned before, 8000 kanji characters are frequently used in ordinary writing. Kanji braille incorporates this number of characters. Indeed, we have two distinct kanji braille systems. One is a 6-dot braille system, and the other is an 8-dot braille system. A kanji braille character is composed of 3 braille letters in the former system, and 2 letters in the latter system. Both are very complicated systems. Neither of them are institutionalized in the public education system. They are learned independently by professionals and students. (About 200 blind persons have learned one or the other of them. That is 0.1% of the total blind population.)

Once a kanji braille system is mastered, the difficulty of inter-script communication disappears. This solution, however, is possible

only with a huge effort on the part of the visually handicapped. Only a handful of the talented among the blind population can become adapt kanji braille users.

It seems to me, therefore, the applicability of kanji braille to library services is, so far, questionable. What is required is the development of kanji-phonetic braille conversion software. As I mentioned earlier, the standard Japanese braille is phonetic. Hence, any kanji-braille conversion software will be imperfect. But owing to the structure of Japanese, compared with kana-kanji conversion, kanji-kana conversion or kanji-braille conversion (these are theoretically almost equivalent) can approach near perfection. This type of software is definitely useful to the visually handicapped

[3] Accessing Data Bases

Various types of data bases are being set up today in Japan as in other post-industrial societies. From my view point, however, the data base construction has been promoted without paying due attention to the services for the handicapped. Like public buildings that are equipped with slopes, elevators and special toilets for the physically handicapped, data bases should be flexible enough to adapt to the needs of diverse users.

The visually handicapped face at least three problems to be overcome for accessing data bases. The first point at issue is the high price of braille terminals. Many braille terminals have been developed in various countries. These terminals are divided into two categories. One is the braille pin display terminal such as VersaBraille, Braillex and Brailink. The other is the braille dot printer type terminal like Crammer's Modified Perkins Brailler. Similar types of braille terminals

have been developed in Japan, as well. These are, for instance, SIA730 (a pin display terminal), ESA731 (a printer type terminal).
(These terminals have been developed by Shouichi Hiratsuka. Further information can be obtained from him. Tokyo Metropolitan Industrial Technique Institute, 13-10, Nishigaoka 3-chome, Kita-Ku, Tokyo, Japan.)
Despite their good quality, these machines are too expensive for most visually handicapped. For example, both SIA730 and ESA731 cost about one million yen (about US$6000).

The second problem is the full screen/graphics mode oriented application software of the data base. Most data base services no longer support traditionally used line modes, but provide only screen/graphics modes. However, braille terminals, especially the printer type terminals, can not accommodate to screen/graphics modes.
(Precisely speaking, pin display terminals can be adapted to some types of partial screen modes with video emulators in their ROMs. In fact, some pin display terminals such as the newest version of Brailink have video emulators. But this obstacle is absolutely insurmountable for dot printer type terminals.)

The third problem, as I mentioned earlier, is the multi-script situation in Japanese. Because kanji-phonetic standard braille conversion software has not been developed, this may be the most serious problem.There are some data bases that incorporate either kana or Romaji data fields in addition to multi-script fields, and these phonetic data supply certain values to users. This is not a rare case. However, the application software of a data base usually does not support listing out phonetic character data only.

Some solutions can be considered. As to the first problem, libraries without doubt are one of the best places to be equipped with

braille terminals. Users can access both on-line external data bases and internal data bases at libraries. The opportunity of using braille terminals is equitably distributed by these facilities.

(Speech synthesizers are the second best choice as output devices for personal users. The merit of synthesizers is their extremely low prices compared with braille terminals. The cheapest ones cost less than US$300. But I believe braille terminals to be definitely superior to speech synthesizers in terms of convenience and efficiency.)

The only way to solve the second and the third problems may be for users and librarians to initiate certain political action to raise social awareness that data bases should support line modes as well as screen/graphics modes, and should provide transliterated phonetic character data. The revision of data base managing systems is required.

[4] Possibilities of the Bulletin Board System

Bulletin Board System (BBS) is an on-line communication network via computers. Its potential utility in the context of library services for the handicapped is positive.

Once a BBS between a library and its users is constructed, hearing impaired users can easily send their request by electronic-mail, and receive quick responses from librarians. A BBS also enhances reference services for the visually handicapped. A complicated request made in writing through a BBS can be more effectively answered than if it were given over the telephone. Libraries can announce new acquisitions, popular titles and any other information through their BBS to their diverse users including the handicapped. Furthermore, libraries may save on the cost of printing out their information in various formats (such as standard ink-print, large ink-print and braille

print). A BBS can be integrated with even a small existing system. Even an 8-bit micro computer can be a host to a BBS. In addition, communication software for a BBS can be freely supplied from the Public Domain. As far as services for the visually handicapped are concerned, multi-focused inter-library BBS networks are especially promising, since braille terminals are too expensive for individual users.

[5] Computerizing the Production of Braille Books

This section will briefly review computerization of braille book production.

Braille book production is being computerized in several phases. These phases are as follows:

1. Automatic braille book production using compositor tapes provided by publishers.
2. Optical Character Recognition (OCR) of ink print or embossed braille prints for data entry, editing and reprinting.
3. Braille data entry with micro computers.

As to the first phase, again, the multi-script situation is the technical obstacle, if a kanji braille system is not used. In the second phase, because of the complexity of kanji, the reliability of OCR is still not high, although its future looks promising.
(The American counterpart of this phase has been led by Kurzweil Reading Machine and its data entry machine.)

In contrast, the third phase seems brighter, owing to the falling in price of micro computers. Not only braille libraries, but also volunteer groups are concerned with distributing micro computers as data entry devices to braille transcribers. Typed input data are efficiently edited with editor software, while braille patterns can be checked on the screen. Furthermore, once braille text files are stored

on floppy disks or magnetic tapes, braille books are easily and economically copied and reprinted with braille line printers.

Conclusion

Many substantial and experimental practices are being attempted in the world concerning computerization of library services for the handicapped. However, the outcome of research and evaluations of these practices has not been systematically sheared by librarians. We at least need a directory of available related hardware and software. It is true that the degree of computerization is not necessarily an indicator of the quality of services. But, once it is well organized and applied, it definitely contributes to the advancement of services.

My focus in this paper is mainly on the multi-script writing system in Japanese. It is the major obstacle to the computerized conversion between braille and multi-script writing. This problem always occurs in countries using ideograms, although the theoretical possibility of conversion software differs in each language structure. Reports and research with regard to this issue from such countries are needed. The utility of data bases and BBS for the visually handicapped is also heavily dependent on the availability of inter-script communication software between the ideographic and the phonetic in such countries. Hence, the Japanese case should never be special.

ABBREVIATIONS

ATT	American Telephone and Telegraph Company
EBCDIC	Extended Binary Coded Decimal Information Code
JIS	Japanese Industrial Standard
ROM	Read Only Menory